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THE

ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

Vol. LXI.

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1899.

Index for Vol. LXI.

Abbott, Rev. Lyman, 69, 105, 209, 228
Alaskan Boundary, 180, 242, 255, 268
America, Duty of, 117
American Peace Society, Bi-monthly Meeting, 32; Annual Meeting, 129; Annual Report of Directors, 130; Need of Funds, 76; New Members, 103
American Eagle Turning Roman, 69
American Flag, *Cecelia De Vere*, 212
Ames, Chas. G., D. D., 87, 129
Angels as Reformers, *Editorial*, 251
Angel of Peace, 130
Anglo-Venezuelan Arbitration Tribunal, Decision of, 243
Anti-Imperialist Conference, 235
Anti-Imperialist League, 62, 181
Arbitration, 14, 20, 164; Court of, 10; Anglo-Venezuelan Tribunal, 242; Compulsory, 222; Court of, 191, 192, 253; Geneva, 188; History of, 155; With Russia, 255
Arbitration Plan; American, 163; British, 163; Russian, 164
Arbitration, Progress of, *Hon. Wm. L. Scruggs*, 239
Arbitration, Treaty Between Italy and Argentine Republic, 45
Are Ye Truly Free? *James Russell Lowell*, 47
Argentine Republic, 45
Armed Men an Obstacle, 257
Arrival of the Doukhobors, *Editorial*, 31
Atkinson, Edward, 107, 150, 269
Australian Federation, 61

Balch, Thomas Willing, 10, 128
Basis of Civilization, The, *Editorial*, 228
Best of All Banners, The, *F. P. Williams*, 138
Bishop Sower's Peace Principles, 36
Bloch, John de, 154, 235, 259
Boston Herald, 235
Boston Labor Union, 11
Boutwell, Ex-Governor, 62, 106, 235
British Arbitration Proposals, 163
British Editors to Continental Press, 108
Broadening Patriotism, 67
Butterworth, Hezekiah, 21, 110

California, Work in, 182
Capen, Samuel B., 150, 167
Careless Speech, 47
Carnegie, Andrew, 181
Carpet-baggers, 71
Cartland, Joseph, 38
Chadwick, John W., 258
Christian Attitude Towards War, *Rev. A. Mackennal, D. D.*, 212
Christian Civilization, 23
Christian Endeavor and Peace, 11; Crusade, 77; War Against War, 89
Christianity and the Social State, 21
Christmas, 1898, *Sir Lewis Morris*, 12
Clark, Francis E., 77, 89
Colonial Military Commission, 36
Colorado, Work in, 237
Commerce Will Suppress War, 269
Coming Day of Peace, The, *Rev. Chas. G. Ames*, 87
Conference, At The Hague, *Editorial*, 76; A Message for the, 189; Immediate and Future Results, *Editorial*, 176; Outcome of, *Editorial*, 175; Results of, *Editorial*, 149; Spirit and Work of, *Editorial*, 148
Conflict of Two Civilizations, *Editorial*, 52
Conquest of the Philippines, *Editorial*, 54
Court of the Small Powers, 127
Courts of Arbitration, 10, 191, 192, 253
Cost of Aggression, 107; National Crime, 9; War, 9, 169
Crime Against Humanity, 35
Crosby, Ernest Howard, 128, 185
Crusade, English Peace, 104
Cuba, Self-Government for, 183
Cuban Industrial Relief Fund, 80; Orphans, 183
Czar, Philadelphia's Message to the, 62; Salisbury's Reply to the, 33; Tolstoy and the, 34; Conference, 4, 8, 32, 33, 51, 52, 58; Outlook, 62; Rescript, 83; Second Circular, 33, 83; Sincerity, 78

Darby, Dr. W. Evans, At The Hague, 153; In America, 200
Degenerate Sons? *John Collins*, 66
Delegates to The Hague, 103
Development of the Peace Ideal, *Julia Ward Howe*, 112
Dewey Demonstration — A Symptom, *Editorial*, 252
Disarm! *Maria Louise Eve*, 38
Disarmament, 4, 198; Debate on, 80; Hope of, 207
Dole, Chas. F., 108, 243
Doukhobors, 10; Arrival of, 31; In Canada, 241
Dyke, Dr. Henry Van, 35

Early Advocate of Peace, An, *Dr. M. L. Holbrook*, 66
Eclipse of War, *E. Tallmadge Root*, 195
England, France, and Fashoda, *Ellen Robinson*, 44
English Church, 154

Faure, Death of M. Felix, 61
Flower, B. O., 265
Fourth of July, 198
Friends' Protest, 210
Future of War, The, 154, 235; Spencer's Opinion, 258

Geneva Arbitration, 188
Geneva Red Cross Convention of 1864, 162
Germ of Arbitration, 189
Gompers, Samuel, Address of, 110
Grotius and Erasmus, 79
Grotius, Debt Due to, 186; Honor to, 155; Principles and Work of, 187
Growth of European Militarism, 245
Growth of International Goodwill, *Rev. H. M. Simmons*, 39
Growth of the Navy, 209

Hague Conference, 76, 145, 149, 189, 216
Hale, Edward Everett, 12, 58, 76, 85, 127, 150
Harpy Power Critic, A, *Editorial*, 231
Harvard-Princeton Debate, 109
Hemmenway, John, Death of, 80
Herald of Peace, 207, 236
Hitchcock, Ambassador, 62
Hoar, Senator George F., 63, 256, 260
Holbrook, Dr. M. L., 15, 66, 196
Holls, Frederick W., 184, 253
Hopefulness of International Arbitration, *Rev. Philip S. Moxom*, 165
Hope of Universal Peace, The, *Editorial*, 27
House in the Woods, 104, 152; Meetings in the, 152
Howe, Julia Ward, Address of, 112
How Long? *Geo. Shepard Burleigh*, 168
Hull Army Bill, 9, 61
Humanizing War, 179

Imperialism and Democracy, 156
Imperialism and Missionaries, 59
Imperialism and the Tracks of Our Forefathers, 34
Importance of Public Opinion, *Hon. Sam. B. Capen*, 167
Independence, Blow at, 117
Indian Conference, 236
In Gladstone's Day and Now, *Hezekiah Butterworth*, 110
Interparliamentary Peace Conference, 181, 218
International Commercial Congress, 137
International Commissions of Inquiry, 165
International Goodwill, Growth of, 39
International Law Association, 183, 208, 257
International Peace Bureau, 133, 235
Its Whole Past, Its Whole Future, *Editorial*, 28
I Would Sing of the Future, *J. A. Edgerton*, 166

Japan's War Burdens, 259
Joint High Commission, Canadian-American, 59; Statement of, 60

Kipling, Barrack-Room Ballads, 258; Owed to, 71; Truce of the Bear, 36

Labor's Contribution to Peace, *Samuel Gompers*, 110
Lake Mohonk, 150, 236
Leeds, B. F., 66

Leeds, J. W., 36, 79, 221
Let us Demand the Uttermost, *Mary A. Livermore*, 113
Light for Russia, *Editorial*, 204
Livermore, Mary A., 69; Address, 113
London Boulevardism, *Editorial*, 230
London Peace Society, 10; Annual Report of, 168
Lorimer, Rev. Geo. C., D. D., 21, 69, 105

MacDonald, J. R., 58
Manifesto, Peace, 140
Manifesto to the Czar, *John Collins*, 129
Massachusetts Republicans, 233
May, Rev. Joseph, 134
Mead, Edwin D., 85, 150, 235
Mean Face of War, The, *Rebecca Harding Davis*, 190
Mediation and Arbitration, 191, 217
Mexico, A Lesson from, 61
McKinley, William, 8, 56, 117, 183
Military Corruption, 258
Military Government, *Editorial*, 101
Militarism, An Enemy of Civilization, *Rev. Joseph May*, 134
Militarism, European, 78; Sources of, 156
Missionaries and Independence, 59
Mohonk Conference, 133, 150, 167, 215, 236, 239
Monarchy, Bottle Holder to, 256
Moore, John Bassett, 155
Morley, John, 104
Muravieff, Count, 33

National Honor, *Ida Whipple Benham*, 65
New and Awful, 35
Nobel Bequest, 258
No Tonic to Literature, 270
North and South, 8
Northwestern University, Debate at, 37

Old Diplomacy, Arbitration and the Permanent Tribunal, *Edward Everett Hale*, 12
Opening of Peace Conference, *Editorial Correspondence*, 125
Outcome of the Hague Conference, *Editorial*, 175

Paine, Hon. Robert Treat, 85, 105, 129, 150
Papal Nuncio, 155
Parliament, Assembling of, 234
Paris Tribunal, 234
Patriotism, Broadening, 67; Ideal, *Isabel Cushman*, 91
Pauncefote, Sir Julian, 185, 209, 211, 260
Peace Conference, At The Hague, 148; Committees, 160; De Staal's Opinion of, 216; Opening of, 125; Presidency of, 76; Practical Results of, 149; Proceedings of, 157
Peace Congress, Turin, 58, 133
Peace Cross, *Sarah F. Smiley*, 215
Peace Crusade, 77, 83; In Baltimore, 106; In Boston, 110; In England, 104; Christian Endeavor, 77
Peace Ideal, *Julia Ward Howe*, 112
Peace Manifesto of the Workers of Great Britain, 140
Peace Memorials, 152, 153
Peace Pilgrimage, 77
Peace Policy of Grant, 237
Peace Problems Before Us, *Editorial*, 203
Peace Society in Russia, 77
Peace Sunday, 133, 168, 254
Peace Treaty, 32
Peace with Spain Proclaimed, 109
Peace, Women's Work for, 112; Work in Worcester, 109
Peace Workers, 153; Loss of, 183
Penal Settlement in Russia, 63
Permanent Court, 164, 192
Permanent Tribunal, 12; American Plan, 163; British Plan, 163; Russian Plan, 164
Philippine Policy, Protest Against, *Editorial*, 106
Philippine Pottage, 35
Philippine Situation, 184, 233
Philippines, 35, 63, 90, 108, 155
Philippines, The Treaty and the, 7
Physiognomy of Soldiers, *Dr. M. L. Holbrook*, 196
Plea for International Arbitration, *Edith M. Wait*, 16
Plea to Peace, *Ella Wheeler Wilcox*, 141
Pilgrimage of Peace, The, *Editorial*, 6

Pope and Peace, The, 62
Porto Rico Disaster, 180
Practical View of Peace, *John Crosby Brown*, 197
President, on Czar's Proposal, The, 8; In the South, 80; Boston Speech, *Editorial*, 56; Opportunity, 117

Race and Civil War, 256
Raising Money for War by Licensing Gambling, 221
Red Cross Convention, 162, 194
Redemptive Power of Love, *B. O. Flower*, 265
Reference Books, 245
Robinson, Ellen, 44
Roosevelt on the Strenuous Life, *Editorial*, 100
Rush, Dr. Benjamin, 52, 66
Russia as a Missionary, *Editorial*, 57
Russian Arbitration Plans, 164
Russia, Light for, 204
Ruskin, John, 168

Salisbury's Reply to the Czar, 33
Samoan Settlement, The, 127; Trouble, 255
Secretary's Absence, 103, 157, 259
Source of Dreyfus Infamy, *Editorial*, 205
South America Fears the U. S., 210
Spain, Ratification of Treaty with, 57
Spirit and Work of Conference, *Editorial*, 148
Staal, M. de, 76, 153, 158, 159, 179; Closing Speech at the Hague Conference, 216
Stead, W. T., 6, 11, 33, 47, 128, 154, 222
Stead's, Mr., Pilgrimage of Peace, *Editorial*, 6

Teacher of Brotherhood, The, 38
Temperance Women, 126
Thomas, Dr. Richard Henry, 79, 106
Tolstoy, Letter, 107; Opinion of Peace Conference, 58, 115
To Nicholas II., 1898, *Elizabeth Stuart Phelps*, 28
Topics for Essays, 243
Treatment of Native Races, 58
Transvaal War, 179, 211, 207, 232, 233
Tremont Temple Peace Meetings, 69, 85, 105, 112, 126
Treaty Between Italy and Argentine Republic, 45
Treaty with Spain, Why we Oppose the, 57
The Hague Convention, 194
Trueblood, Benjamin F., 103, 109, 129, 134, 257; Attendance at The Hague, 157; In Cuba, 259
Turkey and Armenia, 154
Turkish Restitution, 235

United States and the Czar's Conference, The, *Editorial*, 52
United States Commissioners, 60
University of Michigan Wins Debate, 37

Venezuela Arbitration, 180
Venezuela Boundary Award, *Editorial*, 227
Verestchagin, Opinion of War, 60; Paintings, 60
Vice in the Navy, 182
Voice of God to America, *Elizabeth E. Flagg*, 82

War Against War, 89, 128
War and Fire, 81
War and Parentage, *Dr. M. L. Holbrook*, 15
War and War Rumors, 206
War Disenchanted, *E. P. Marvin*, 260
War Exposition, 256
War Fever in London, 208
War Machines, Great, 93
War's Cup of Woe, 270
Washington's Birthday, 63
Wasted Genius, 236
Was the Civil War Necessary? *Henry Wood*, 67
W. C. T. U., 126, 127, 141, 256; Convention, 256
Wilhelmina, Reception of Peace Delegates, 153
William of Orange, 189
White, Andrew D., 103, 177, 222
What Moved the Czar, *Editorial*, 29
What the Conference at The Hague May be Expected to Accomplish, *Editorial*, 124
Whitewashing War, *Editorial*, 54
Women's Work for Peace, 102
Work for the New Year, *Editorial*, 3

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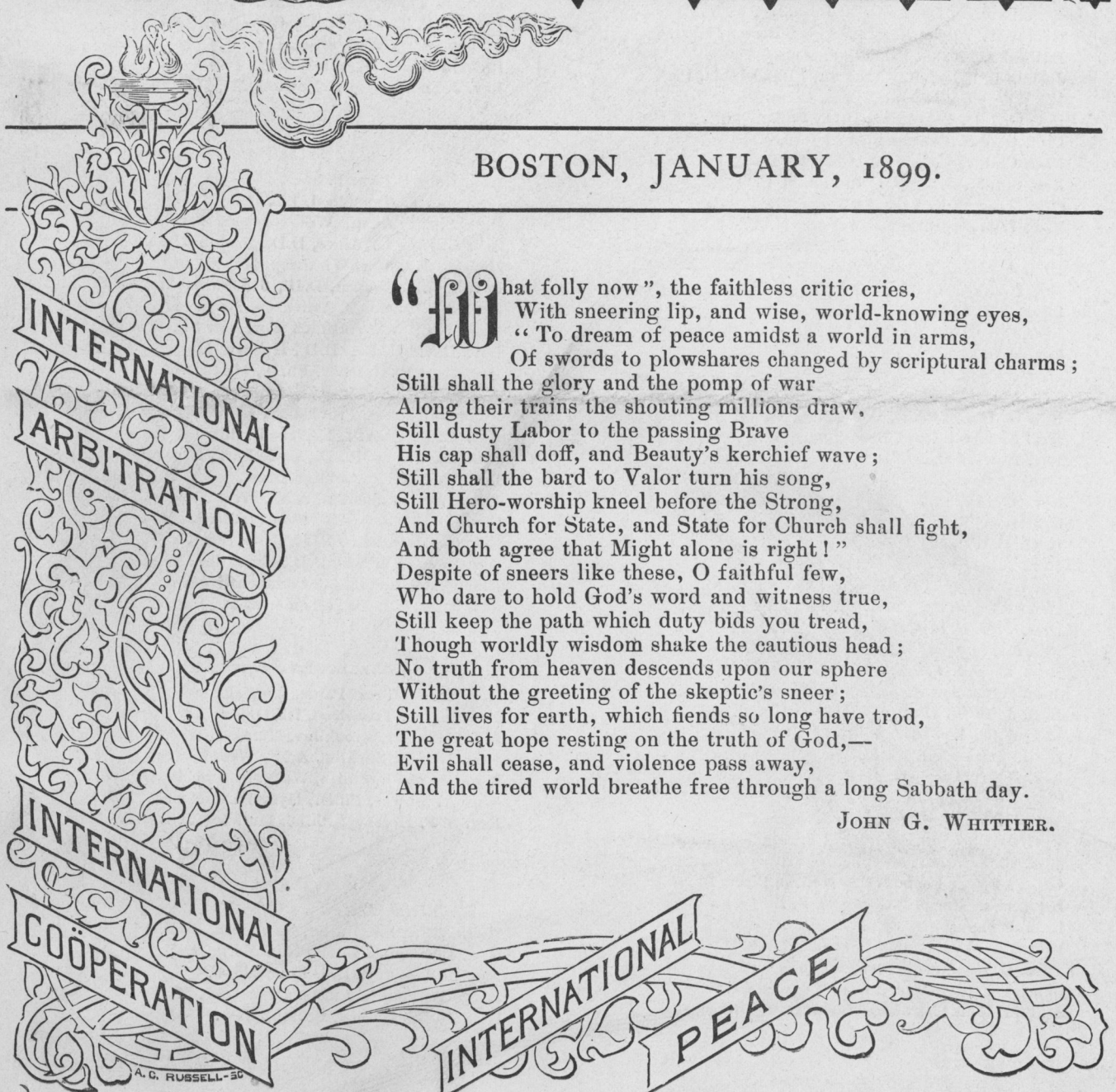

"What folly now", the faithless critic cries,
With sneering lip, and wise, world-knowing eyes,
"To dream of peace amidst a world in arms,
Of swords to plowshares changed by scriptural charms;
Still shall the glory and the pomp of war
Along their trains the shouting millions draw,
Still dusty Labor to the passing Brave
His cap shall doff, and Beauty's kerchief wave;
Still shall the bard to Valor turn his song,
Still Hero-worship kneel before the Strong,
And Church for State, and State for Church shall fight,
And both agree that Might alone is right!"
Despite of sneers like these, O faithful few,
Who dare to hold God's word and witness true,
Still keep the path which duty bids you tread,
Though worldly wisdom shake the cautious head;
No truth from heaven descends upon our sphere
Without the greeting of the skeptic's sneer;
Still lives for earth, which fiends so long have trod,
The great hope resting on the truth of God,—
Evil shall cease, and violence pass away,
And the tired world breathe free through a long Sabbath day.

JOHN G. WHITTIER.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
EDITORIALS . . . . . Work for the New Year—Disarmament—"Russia as a Missionary"—Mr. Stead's Proposed Pilgrimage of Peace—The Treaty and the Philippines.	3—7
EDITORIAL NOTES. . . . . The President on the Czar's Proposal—North and South—Far from Satisfactory—Hull Army Bill—Cost of a National Crime—London Peace Society—The Doukhobors—Balch's Courts of Arbitration—Boston Labor Union—Christian Endeavor and Peace.	8—11
BREVITIES.	11
Christmas, 1898, *Sir Lewis Morris.*	12
God Give us Men.	12
The Old Diplomacy, Arbitration and the Permanent Tribunal, *Edward E. Hale.*	12
War and Parentage, *M. L. Holbrook, M.D.*	15
A Plea for Arbitration, *Edith M. Wait.*	16
Lost, Strayed or Stolen.	20
New Books	21
The Only Thing.	23
Christian Civilization.	23

Work for the New Year.

As another year opens, all those who are devoted to the cause of peace will be asking themselves how they may do most efficient service in its promotion. What is there new that can be done? How can the old principles be turned into fresh statements suited to the momentous needs of the hour? These questions we cannot answer for others. Every live worker will find his own way of answering them as new occasions make new demands upon him.

It will be helpful to all to remember that in peace work, as in all other work for the transformation of the world, we must be both theoretical and practical—intensely and thoroughly both these. The attempt to be the one without the other is to court failure from the start.

War is a great evil, a stupendous iniquity. Peace is the divinest of blessings, the loftiest of virtues. The principles and dispositions out of which war springs, as well as the barbarous deeds of war, must be declared wrong in the most emphatic way; those which lead to peace and loving mutual service must be painted in the most living colors as worthy of the highest devotion. This must be done whether there is any war in sight or not. Peace talk of this kind is not mere rhetoric, not mere sentimental gush; it is the declaration of truth, and declaration of truth in the broadest general way, even in the most oft-repeated phrases and resolutions, lies at the foundation of all reform and progress.

Men who have no strong general convictions on any question, no ideas and theories which they cannot help trying to utter, even when there seems no immediate demand, will never do anything practical unless "jammed" by the crowd into so doing. The want of such convictions is the reason why so many people's apparent principles are so often hastily abandoned when there is the least danger that they will be practically tested. In reality, they have no principles on the subject, and are pulled about in any and every direction by the whims of expediency.

Too much importance, therefore, cannot be attached to the theoretical and ideal side of peace work. We have little respect either for the intelligence or the moral soundness of those who berate such workers as unpractical visionaries. Visionaries are the men who start the world up and keep it going, and there is no higher business than telling visions. Good men cannot "take the world as it is." They cannot be practical in that sense, and the cry against them, "be practical," is often nothing more than the expression of a wish to let things alone in their low and wicked course. So let the friends of peace everywhere keep on decrying war and uttering, in the closet and on the house-top, the great truths of brotherhood and peace which have been proclaimed so often during the century soon to

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY.

ARTICLE I. This Society shall be designated the "AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY."

ART. II. This Society, being founded on the principle that all war is contrary to the spirit of the gospel, shall have for its object to illustrate the inconsistency of war with Christianity, to show its baleful influence on all the great interests of mankind, and to devise means for insuring universal and permanent peace.

ART. III. Persons of every Christian denomination desirous of promoting peace on earth, and goodwill towards men, may become members of this Society.

ART. IV. Every annual subscriber of two dollars shall be a member of this Society.

ART. V. The payment of twenty dollars at one time shall constitute any person a Life-member.

ART. VI. The chairman of each corresponding committee, the officers and delegates of every auxiliary contributing to the funds of this Society, and every minister of the gospel who preaches once a year on the subject of peace, and takes up a collection in behalf of the cause, shall be entitled to the privileges of regular members.

ART. VII. All contributors shall be entitled within the year to one-half the amount of their contributions in the publications of the Society.

ART. VIII. The Officers of this Society shall be a President, Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Auditor and a Board of Directors, consisting of not less than twenty members of the Society, including the President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be ex-officio members of the Board. All Officers shall hold their offices until their successors are appointed, and the Board of Directors shall have power to fill vacancies in any office of the Society. There shall be an Executive Committee of seven, consisting of the President, Secretary and five Directors to be chosen by the Board, which Committee shall, subject to the Board of Directors, have the entire control of the executive and financial affairs of the Society. Meetings of the Board of Directors or of the Executive Committee may be called by the President the Secretary or two members of such body. The Society or the Board of Directors may invite persons of well known legal ability to act as Honorary Counsel.

ART. IX. The Society shall hold an annual meeting at such time and place as the Board of Directors may appoint, to receive their own and the Treasurer's report, to choose officers, and transact such other business as may come before them.

ART. X. The object of this Society shall never be changed; but the constitution may in other respects be altered, on recommendation of the Executive Committee, or of any ten members of the Society, by a vote of three-fourths of the members present at any regular meeting.

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